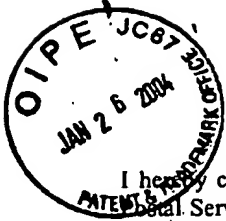


JSE



PATENT

I hereby certify that on the date specified below, this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to Mail Stop Issue Fee, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

January 22, 2004 T. Miller
Date Tamra Miller

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant	: Vishnu K. Agarwal	Attorney Docket No.:	501082.10 (98-0616.09)
Serial No.	: 09/652,714	Group Art Unit	: 2815
Filed	: August 31, 2000	Examiner	: Jose R. Diaz
		Confirmation No.	: 3982
		Date of Notice of Allowance	: October 22, 2003
Title	: DEVICE AND METHOD FOR PROTECTING AGAINST OXIDATION OF A CONDUCTIVE LAYER IN SAID DEVICE		

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner of Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS
FOR ALLOWANCE

Sir:

While the combinations of elements recited in the allowed claims are allowable, the undersigned would like to point out that some or all of these individual elements may be broadened such that the resulting combination is still patentable. Applicant may elect to pursue

such claims, or to pursue claims directed to other aspects of the present invention, through a continuation or reissue application, or through a reexamination proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,
DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP



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